

MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

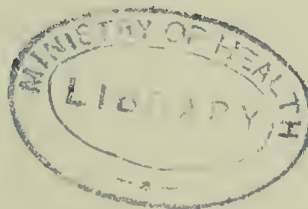
THE REPORT

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(including Sanitary Inspector's Report)

- for -

THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1952



MEDICAL OFFICER:

Amelia Rowles

Town Hall

Newtown.

Telephone 246.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

D. Bryn Jones

Penrallt Street

Machynlleth.

Telephone 35.



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To The Chairman and Members of
the Machynlleth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you an Annual Report on
the health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

AMELIA ROWLES

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Area in acres	98,564	98,564
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year estimate)	3,138	3,
Rateable Value	£6,659	£6,722
Sum represented by one penny rate	£25	£25

VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate of Population)

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1951</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	47	21	26	42	23	19
Legitimate	42	20	22	40	23	17
Illegitimate	5	1	4	2	0	2

Birth Rate per 1,000
population for
Machynlleth R.D.

14.98

13.55

For the whole of the
County

16.83

16.66

For England & Wales

15.5

15.3

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1951</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1952</u>
	3	2	1	NIL
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)		64		0
For the whole of the County		20.9		20.0

INFANT DEATHS

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
(a) Under four weeks	Nil	1 female (illegitimate)
(b) Under one year	Nil	1 female (illegitimate) 1 male (legitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate

i.e. Number of deaths of infants
under 1 year per 1,000 live births 0

48

For the whole of the County

30

29

For England and Wales

29.6

27.6

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1951</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	65	31	34	34	13	21
Death Rate per 1,000 population		20.71			10.97	
For the whole of the County		14.08			12.40	
For England & Wales		12.5			11.3	

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of death of infants under one year:-

One male death due to congenital malformation.
One female death due to bronchitis.
There were no maternal deaths.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1951</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis	0			0		
Syphilitic disease	1	1	0	0		
Meningococcal infection	1	1	0	0		
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	5	2	3	3	1	2
Malignant neoplasm - breast	1	-	1	0		
Other malignant neoplasm	6	2	4	3	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	2	4	3	0	3
Coronary disease	3	2	1	4	2	2
Hypertension with heart disease	2	0	2	0		
Other heart disease	18	7	11	8	3	5
Other circulatory disease	1	1	0	1	0	1
Influenza	2	0	2	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1	0	1	1	0
Bronchitis	5	4	1	3	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	8	6	2	0		
Congenital malform- ations	1	0	1	1	1	0
Other defined and ill- defined disease	3	2	1	3	0	3
Accidents	1	0	1	3	2	1
Total	65	31	34	34	13	21

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS IN 1952

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 - 1 year	1	1
1 - 5	0	0
5 -	0	1
15 -	1	0
25 -	0	0
35 -	1	1
45 -	2	2
55 -	1	1
65 -	2	7
75 -	3	6
85 and over	2	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

There were no notifications of infectious disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1952 there were 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified:-

two males aged 49 and 64
one female aged 45

There was one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in a female aged 26.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

AMBULANCE

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone - Machynlleth 158.

Sitting car service - all requests to County Health Offices, Newtown.

CHILDRENS' OFFICER

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Childrens' Act, 1948. The Childrens' Officer is:-

Miss C. Owen Iaterhouse,
Childrens' Department,
County Offices,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 228.

The Childrens' Reception Home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 109.

DOMICILARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by:-

Nurse M. Roberts,
Brynmair,
Machynlleth. Telephone - Machynlleth 129.

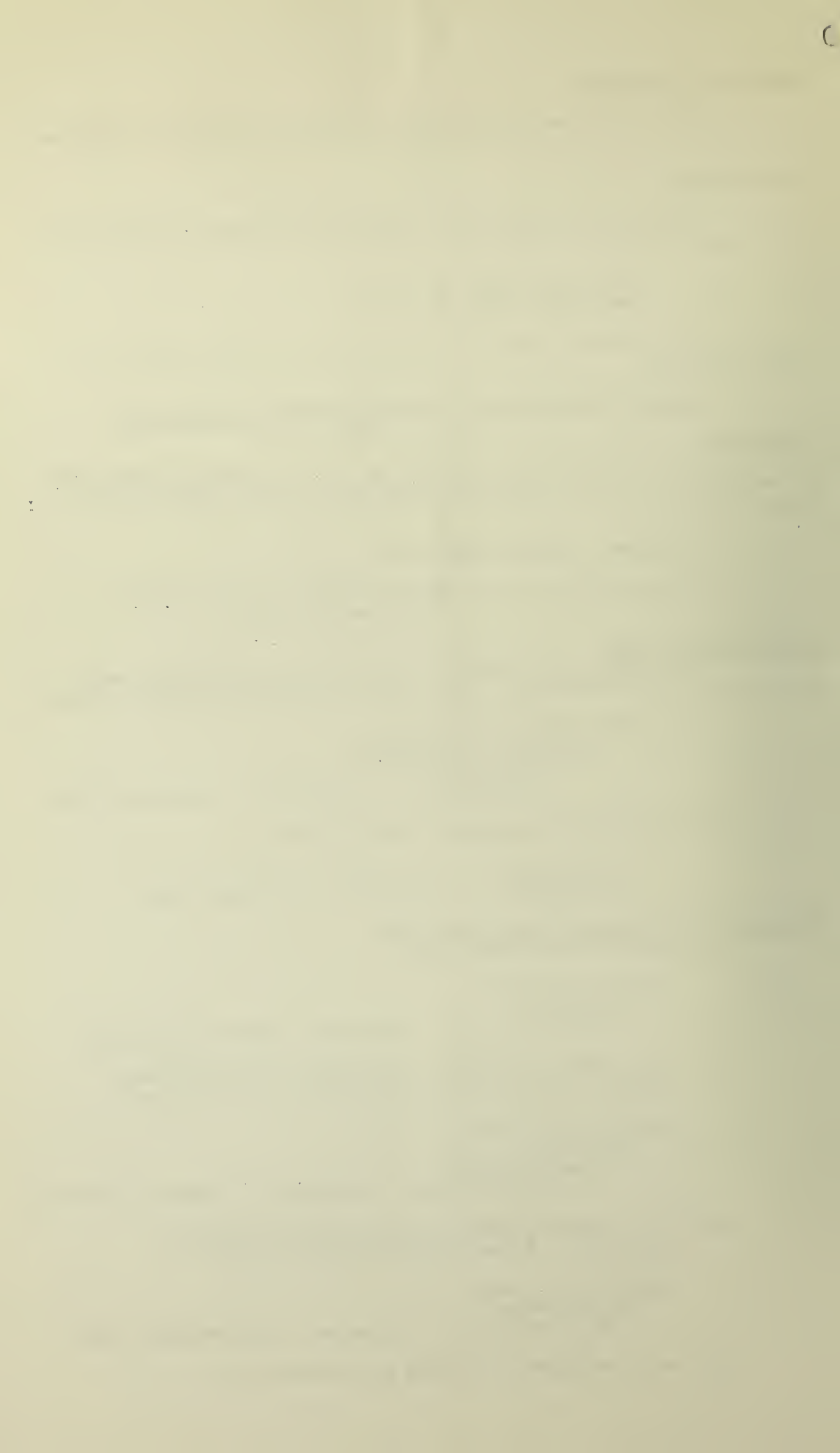
Her area covers Derwenlas, Aberhosan, Melinberhedyn, Forge, Uwchgarreg, Pantperthog and Penegoes.

Sister M. E. Morgan,
Brynafon,
Pont Pennant,
nr. Machynlleth. Telephone - Cemmaes Road 241.

Her area covers Cemmaes Road, Darowen, Talywern, Abercegir, Llenwrin and Commins Coch.

Sister N. L. Jones,
The Emporium,
Llanbrynmair. Telephone - Llanbrynmair 230.

Her area includes Talerddig and Staylittlo.



HEALTH VISITORS

There are two Health Visitors in the district:-

Miss E. Jones,
Caewern,
Corris. Telephone - Corris 225.

and Sister N.L. Jones of Llanbrynmair carries out duties as a Health Visitor in that area.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Home help is available in certain cases on application to the Home Help Supervisor:-

Mrs R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 205.

HOSPITALS

The local hospital, the Machynlleth and Corris District Hospital, is controlled by the Mid-Wales Regional Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. Apart from Medical and Surgical cases, midwifery cases are also admitted.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A branch laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service under the direction of Dr.M.V.N.Sudds is at:-

Cardiganshire General Hospital,
Aberystwyth. Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

The laboratory offers very comprehensive facilities for investigations of a Public Health nature. These facilities have been freely utilised during the year and have proved of the greatest value.

MATERNITY AND CHILDWELFARE

The County Council is responsible for this service in your area by virtue of the National Health Service Act, 1948.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Llanbrynmair at 2.0p.m.

A clinic is also held at the Church Hall, Machynlleth on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Area Office of the National Assistance is at:-

Agricultural House,
Kerry Road,
Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 341.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The Local Office of the Ministry of National Insurance is at:-

Community House,
Severn House,
Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 284.

TUBERCULOSIS

The service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

Dr.G.O.Thomas, the chest physician, holds clinics at the Machynlleth Chest Hospital every Wednesday at 11.0a.m.

VACCINATION

Vaccination in this area is carried out by the local General Practitioners. It is also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics held at Machynlloeth.

Lymph for vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from:-

Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.
Public Health Laboratory, Bryn Hyfryd, Conway.
Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Hereford.
Bacteriological Department, City Laboratory,
126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the age of nine months to one year, followed by a booster dose when the child enters school at 5 years.

The service is carried out by the local General Practitioners and by the County Health Service in the Infant Welfare Clinics and in the local schools.

Lymph can be obtained at the County Health Offices, Newtown.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Clinics are held at Shrewsbury and at Oswestry:-

- (a) 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.
Men - Tuesdays and Fridays, 6p.m. - 8p.m.
Women - Mondays and Wednesdays, 3.30p.m. - 5.30p.m.
- (b) The Dispensary, Brook Street, Oswestry.
Men - Thursdays, 1p.m. - 2p.m.
Women - Thursdays, 2p.m. - 3p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The majority of the villages and hamlets depend for their supply of drinking water upon wells and springs in the near vicinity.

In general the water supplies of the area are satisfactory in quality but deficient in quantity, hence the reason why the supply is obtained chiefly from standpipes and only a comparatively small number of houses have a water supply laid on.

There was one instance where the supply was found to be seriously polluted. A temporary method of chlorination was adopted and after a period the water became satisfactory.

In another village the water was found to contain an excessive amount of iron. After chemical analyses were taken it was found that the iron was derived from the galvanised-iron pipes and steps are being taken to have these replaced by asbestos pipes.

The Dolgelley R.D.C. scheme has been extended into the area and the villages of Corris and Esgairgeiliog now have a piped water supply and the old standpipes have been removed.

The supplies under the control of the Council are kept under continuous observation and some 32 bacteriological samples were taken of which 5 were for chemical purposes.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There is no sewage disposal scheme in the area. Such schemes as there are are in connection with the Council's own houses.

The drainage systems in the various villages are far from satisfactory and this matter should receive the attention of the Council simultaneously with the question of water supply.

The dry bucket is the system prevalent in the area and this will continue to be so until a comprehensive water supply scheme, which is under consideration, has been laid.

In one or two villages, where there is a sufficient supply of water, a small number of houses have water closets installed which discharge into cesspools or septic tanks.

REFUSE REMOVAL

Part of the district is covered by a refuse collection scheme including nightsoil collection.

Whilst the scheme does perform an essential service, it is not all that can be desired owing to the fact that the vehicles used are not of the proper type and the Council should aim at a scheme which will cover the whole area with a proper vehicle.

The present scheme is operated on the contract method.

CAMPING SITES

The Council have now adopted byelaws controlling the use of common land. These are in operation at five sites in the area, including one at Pennal, with the result that the nuisance caused by gypsies camping on these common lands has been removed.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

All the shops are of the small 'one-man' type and no action was taken in relation to closet accommodation, temperature and ventilation.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

There is no occasion to inspect meat intended for food as this is carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse which is situated within the area of the Urban Council.

A small amount of canned foodstuffs was condemned.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ a Part-time Rodent Control Operator under the above Act. One or two minor infestations in business and private dwellings were dealt with during the year.

With regard to farms, close co-operation is maintained with the County Agricultural Executive Committee and any infestation found is reported to and dealt with by their staff.

HILL FARMING ACT, 1946

The geographical nature of the district lends itself admirably to the application of the above Act and the amount of work in connection therewith is increasing year by year. Some 20 farm-houses have had improvements carried out in the nature of hot and cold water supply systems, bathrooms, water closets and septic tanks.

HOUSING

Tenders were approved for the erection of 10 Unity Houses - 4 at Aberhosan and 6 at Pennal - and the work is now in progress.

Number of houses erected by the Council during the year	Nil
Number in course of erection by the Council	10
Number of houses on approved tender but work not commenced	Nil
Number of dwellinghouses inspected under the Housing Acts	23
Number of dwellinghouses classified as unfit for human habitation	10
Number of unfit dwellings dealt with informally and major reconstruction schemes accepted during the year ...	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
Number of reconditioning schemes approved under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 after service of Notice ...	Nil
Number of reconditioning schemes disapproved after service of Notice under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	Nil

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number served	11
Number complied with	8

STATUTORY NOTICES (P.H. ACTS)

Number served	1
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of cases enquired into during the year	Nil
Number of houses involved	Nil
Number of houses disinfected	Nil

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number in district	Nil
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BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

Cases reported	Nil
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RAG FLOCK ACT

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold	Nil
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VISITS

Total number of visits to various works, water supplies, houses, housing sites, inspection of nuisances etc.	870
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NUISANCES

Number of inspections made	29
Number of Informal Notices	16
Number complied with	11

